

## PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2019-01-13 06:57:48
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Joe Sebastiani
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<b>Phone</b>	302-345-1563
<b>Observer's Address</b>	33 Longview Road Coatesville PA 19320 United States
<b>Names of additional observers</b>	Ellen Sebastiani
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	Mississippi Kite
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	09-03-2018 10:20 AM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	<a href="https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48263328">https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48263328</a>
<b>County</b>	Chester
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	East Fallowfield Township
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	East Fallowfield Township Park
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	39.956806, -75.827847
<b>Habitat</b>	Playing field/mowed area, but this bird was a flyover migrating south
<b>Distance to bird</b>	Overhead approximately 150 meters
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	clear day
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Zeiss 10X42 SF Victory. Camera was a Canon SX50 Powershot

**Description**

Thin-winged, long-tailed, gray-backed raptor. It caught my attention and I thought it was an osprey naked-eye, then I looked at the bird through binoculars on it and saw that it was not an Osprey, but was a thin-winged, grayish bird with a long, squared-tail, with a round head projection. It was fairly high up and distant when I got the photo, but I had been watching the bird as it was directly overhead at first and got a good look at it. It circled around once before continuing south. Flight was lazy and graceful. In gliding flight, wings were proportionately longer than what is normally expected on a bird of that size. I didn't see the shorter first primary, mainly I was looking at flight style, color pattern, and most especially, the shape of the bird and proportions of head extension, tail length and shape, and wing length and shape.

**Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)**

This bird appeared to be migrating and followed a straight path southwest, however, as it went by, it slowly circled once before moving on.

**Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)**

Accipiters have a more compact shape and shorter, thicker wings and a different flight style.

Buteo is a much bulkier, short-tailed, blunt-winged bird.

Osprey has a similar lanky look, but I was able to see the pattern which was fairly plain gray, and not black and white. Plus, my bird didn't have the distinctive M-shaped pattern and was very thin.

Falcons have a pointed wing pattern and are usually faster, however a kestrel has a similar, lazy look sometimes. The kite was seen well enough to eliminate kestrel due to size, wing-shape, and plumage pattern seen well enough.

**Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)**

Yes. I have experience with this species in the south, and in the tropics, and have lots of experience at hawk watches with raptor identification in flight.

**After**

Sibley Guide.

**Supporting evidence (check all that apply)**

Photograph

**Upload images, audio, video or drawings**

[MIKI.East Fallowfield Park.j.sebastiani.9.3.18.jpg](#)

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